

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05597 191323Z

44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 H-03 DRC-01 /100 W

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R 191251Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5702

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMTM

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5597

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, SA

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL VISITS

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH A NUMBER OF SENIOR SAG OFFICIALS AND SEVERAL ROYAL PRINCES DURING AND SUBSEQUENT TO SECRETARY'S LATEST VISIT TO RIYADH QUESTION OF VISITS TO SAUDI ARABIA BY TOP-LEVEL MISSION FROM U.S. WAS RAISED. SINCE PROSPECTS FOR U.S.-SAG RELATIONS HAD GENERALLY IMPROVED IN WAKE OF SECRETARY'S MOST RECENT VISIT, WE HAVE ASKED SAUDIS IF IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR SUBJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST TO BE FURTHERED BY VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS FROM U.S., SOME OF THEM HIGH-RANKING.

2. ALL SAUDIS WE SPOKE WITH AGREED THAT TREND IN U.S.-SAG RELATIONS APPEARED ENCOURAGING, BUT FELT THAT IN ASSESSING DESIRABILITY OF A VISIT WE SHOULD BE GUIDED BY AREA OF VISITOR'S EXPERTISE AND DEGREE OF ATTENTION AND/OR CONTROVERS THEIR PRESENCE MIGHT OCCASION. ALL AGREED THAT TIME FOR MILITARY MISSION HAD NOT YET COME. MINISTER FOR PLANNING HISHAM NAZER, FOR INSTANCE, BELIEVED THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH VISITS FROM INDIVIDUAL PROMINENT

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 05597 191323Z

EXPERTS IN FINANCE OR INVESTMENT WHILE PEACE TALKS

CONTINUE. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED SAG WOULD BE SENSITIVE TO HIGH-LEVEL U.S. VISITS THAT WOULD SEEM TO PUBLICLY AFFIRM EXCEPTIONALLY CLOSE U.S.-SAG TIES AT TIME WHEN MANY ARAB NATIONS ARE STILL RESERVING THEIR PUBLIC POSITION TOWARDS U.S.

3. SAUDI STRICTURES DO NOT APPLY IN ANY WAY TO CONGRESSIONAL VISITS. SAUDIS WELCOME ANY OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THEIR CASE TO CONGRESS AND FROM KING ON DOWN WILL DO BEST TO BE FORTHCOMING.
AKINS

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Disposition Reason:
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